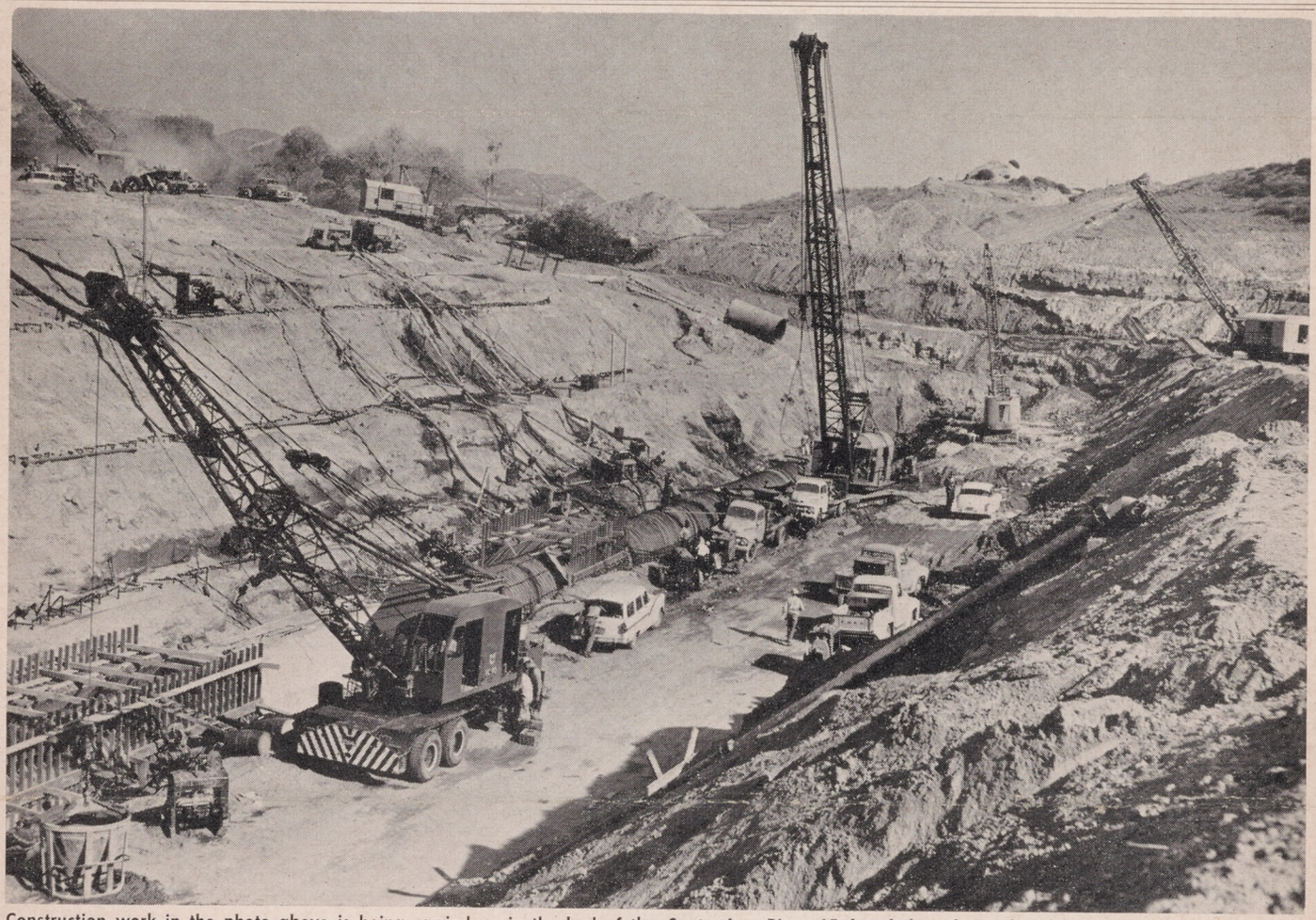
• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXII OCTOBER, 1955 NUMBER 10



Construction work in the photo above is being carried on in the bed of the Santa Ana River 45 feet below the surface of the river bed. At this point the river has been bypassed to the channel at the right. The flow of the diverted river is 45 second feet and the well points and pumps are pumping six second feet out of the river base to permit the construction work. The pipe being laid is 108 inch welded steel pipe 1-1/16 inches thick and is being encased with 18 inch reinforced concrete.

Directors Restore Rates For Colorado River Water

The Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors has restored the rates for Colorado River water to a year-round rate of $10 an acre-foot for natural water and $20 an acre-foot for softened and filtered water.

This action by the Board terminates on December 1 a temporary adjustment in rates which has been in effect for the past year. Last November the Board authorized an $8 rate per acre-foot for natural water and an $18 rate per acre-foot for softened and filtered water during the months of November 1 through April 30. During the months of May 1 through October 31 the rates were set at $10 and $22.

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen said that the purpose of lowering the District's water rates during the fall and winter months was to encourage District cities and areas to schedule their use of water, especially for underground replenishment, during the winter season and to pump from these underground supplies during the summer to cut down peak demands on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Mr. Jensen pointed out that the Metropolitan Water District is a wholesaler of water to cities and areas within the District and does not engage in the sale of water to individual consumers.

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General Manager Diemer Takes Hawaiian Vacation

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer and Mrs. Diemer recently returned from a vacation trip to the Hawaiian Islands which they made in company with members of the Al Malaika Shrine and their families.

They sailed on the S.S. Lurline on September 22. Flowers from District employees, family and friends filled the stateroom. On board they encountered a former District employee, Marjorie Howell Sigle, who was making the trip with her husband. Marjorie worked for the District from 1933 to 1941 in the Purchasing Division.

Upon arriving at Honolulu they received a surprise welcome complete with numerous leis from District employees, presented by Mrs. Robert C. Johnson, sister of Field Secretary Rufus Fee. Also on hand to greet them was Mr. Ben Nutter, a former engineer for the District. Ben now holds the responsible position of Director of Public Works for the Territory of Hawaii.

Mr. Diemer took a postman's holiday while in the Islands by looking over the Honolulu water system in company with Mr. Edward J. Morgan, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply. Messers. Hefty, Meinicke and Auld of Mr. Morgan's staff extended many courtesies to Mr. and Mrs. Diemer as did Mr. Merwin Helmreich of the business administration department of the Honolulu Water Department.

Mr. Diemer was very impressed with the cleanliness and good housekeeping in the Department's various plants. He was told that in the mountainous areas the rainfall averages 160 inches a year and that Hawaii has plenty of water for its varied agricultural needs.

Another pleasant meeting was with Captain Perry M. Boothe, also a former engineer with the District. Perry now is Assistant Director, Pacific Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks for the U.S. Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. Diemer also visited the Island of Hawaii before returning to the mainland by airplane on October 10.

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, a Los Angeles Rotarian, attended a meeting of the Honolulu Rotary Club during his vacation trip. He was greeted by Navy Captain Gill M. Richardson, a fellow Rotarian.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed October, 1955, covering District operations for September, 1955.)

Colorado River—The water level in Lake Mead dropped 4.21 feet during September to elevation 1098.50 feet and the usuable storage dropped 400,000 acre-feet to 12,090,000 acre-feet. The average rate of discharge for the month at Hoover Dam and Parker Dam was 10,500 and 11,600 cubic feet per second respectively, as compared with 12,890 and 13,870 during August. At Lake Havasu the water surface varied from 446.9 to 448.5 feet in elevation.

Power and Pumping—Pumping at Hayfield was continuous on a 3-pump basis except for 9 minutes on September 7, when all three pumps were off the line due to trouble on the Edison system. A total of 34,659 acre-feet of water was pumped at Hayfield. Peak delivery to and from the Edison Company was 110,000 kw and 65,000 kw respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 338 to 198 parts per million at an average rate of 411 cfs. Daily rate of flow varied from 186 to 520 cfs, the latter figure being a new record high for the 14 years of plant operation.

Construction—On the middle cross-feeder 734 lineal feet of pipe was laid for a total to date of 2,996 feet; on the lower feeder, Corona through the Santa Ana River Canyon crossing, the contract is 68 percent complete; on the lower feeder, Santa Ana River Canyon to San Juan tunnel, the contract is 96 percent complete; the lower feeder and Santiago lateral from Santa Ana Canyon to Santiago Reservoir, the contract is 12 percent complete. At San Juan Tunnel, concrete operations were completed on September 20, with the contract work 98 percent complete.

On pumping plant expansion: Installation of pump units 4 and 5—except for minor work, installation at Intake plant is complete; at Gene plant, installation is 85 percent complete; at Iron Mountain plant, 68 percent complete; at Eagle Mountain plant, 19 percent complete; Hayfield, 18 percent complete. On the pump delivery lines, progress is as follows: Intake plant, 93 percent complete; Gene, 96 percent; Iron Mountain plant, 77 percent; Eagle Mountain plant, 40 percent; Hayfield, 47 percent complete.

Purchasing—A total of $117,056 was expended on purchase orders and agreements.

German Officials Inspect District's Aqueduct System

Three distinguished visitors from Germany this month toured portions of the Metropolitan Water District's aqueduct system as a part of an extensive study of water works operations in this country.

Dr. Heinrich Kaun, General Manager of Public Utilities in Stuttgart, Germany, Mr. Walter Spaeth, Director of the Gas Coke Works of that city, and Mr. Josef Hall, Director of the Tar Distillation Company, Ltd., also of Stuttgart, were guests of the District from October 20 to 23.

On October 20 they visited the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, including industrial sections, Long Beach and the Los Angeles Harbor, and the District's Softening and Filtration Plant at La Verne.

Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer, and Henry J. Mills, Construction and Operation Engineer, accompanied the visitors on part of their inspection of construction work on the lower feeder and Lake Mathews on October 21.

They continued out along the main aqueduct line on October 22 to Gene Village, inspecting the pumping plant expansion work and Parker Dam. They concluded their tour with a visit to Hoover Dam on October 23. They were accompanied throughout their entire visit by Rufus Fee, Field Secretary.

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer and Henry J. Mills, Construction and Operation Engineer, accompanied three German officials on part of their inspection tour of the Aqueduct system. Left to right are Mr. Diemer, Dr. Heinrich Kaun, General Manager of Public Utilities, Stuttgart, Germany, Josef Hall, Director, Tar Distillation Company, Ltd., Stuttgart, Walter Spaeth, Director, Gas Coke Works, Stuttgart, and Mr. Mills.

Aqueduct Named One of Seven Engineering Wonders

The Colorado River Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the giant Hoover Dam have been named by the American Society of Civil Engineers as two of the Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders of the United States, the Society announced October 20.

The Colorado River Aqueduct, built and operated by the Metropolitan Water District, is the longest and largest domestic water supply line in the world. Conceived and built by Southern Californians, with their own money, the aqueduct now supplies water to the more than six million people living in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.

It was built during the period of 1932 to 1941 and will have an ultimate capacity of more than a billion gallons of water a day. It consists of 569 miles of tunnels, canals, siphons and delivery lines, extending from above Parker Dam on the Colorado River westward across the State of California.

Hoover Dam stands 727 feet high and was completed in 1935. It blocks a deep canyon section of the Colorado River where it forms the boundary between Arizona and Nevada and has created Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States.

Hoover Dam also was not built at the expense of the general taxpayers of the nation. Prior to its authorization by Congress, Southern California communities and private power companies signed firm contracts to purchase Hoover power sufficient to repay construction costs plus interest within 50 years.

The other five engineering marvels selected by the Society include the Chicago Sewage Disposal system, Empire State Building, Grand Coulee Dam and Columbia River Basin Project, Panama Canal, and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Criteria for the selections, made by a special committee of the Society, included service to the well-being of people and communities, pioneering effort in design and construction, uniqueness, beauty, size and in some instances, extent to which a project has been copied successfully.

Special Master In Supreme Court Suit Dies

George I. Haight, Special Master in the Supreme Court suit, Arizona vs. California passed away in Chicago on September 30, and the Court has appointed Judge Simon H. Rifkind of New York to succeed him.

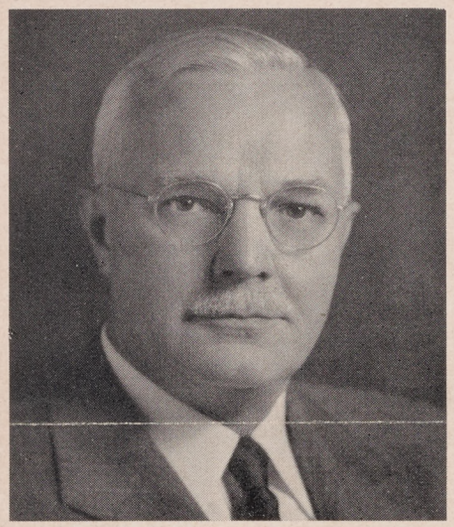
Prior to his death, Special Master Haight had submitted a report to the Court recommending against California's motion to bring the Upper Basin states into the suit.

On October 10, the Court entered an order receiving the report of Mr. Haight, granted California permission to file exceptions to the Master's report and named Judge Rifkind as the new Special Master.

The Court has since announced that it will hear oral arguments on California's request to bring the Upper Basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming into the suit.

The Arizona suit seeks to establish a right to 3,800,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually for that state. At the same time they would limit California's use of water from the river to about 3,800,000 acre-feet or about one and a half million acre-feet annually less than the rights established by appropriation and by contracts with the Secretary of the Interior.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Donald M. Keith—20 Years Service

Donald M. Keith became eligible for his 20 year service pin on October 28. He was first employed by the District as an Attorney in October, 1935.

In April of 1941 he was granted military leave to serve with the Army, coming out of the service with the rate of Colonel. He returned to the District as Deputy General Counsel in June of 1946.

In March of 1951 he again went on Military leave to serve during the Korean War. He returned to his position as Deputy General Counsel in July, 1952. He was also in the service during World War I.

Mr. Keith is associated with General Counsel James H. Howard in the Arizona-California Colorado River suit now pending in the Supreme Court.

From 1921 to 1929 Mr. Keith was Deputy City Attorney of Los Angeles.

* * *

Group One of the Employees Association held elections on October 12. Rufus Fee, Field Secretary, was elected President and Marvin Stephens, Junior Engineer, was elected to the post of Secretary-Treasurer.

* * *

Guy Verne Smith, Mechanical Foreman at Gene and Intake, was married to Mrs. Elva Barnhardt in the Little Church Around the Corner in Las Vegas on September 30. Verne has been with the District since September, 1946. The newlyweds will live at Gene Village.

* * *

Richard S. Faulhaber, Utility Man at Gene Village, and Mrs. Faulhaber recently became the parents of a 6 pound, 6 ounce baby daughter. The baby was born in Afton, Utah and has been named Jacqueline.

District employees were saddened by the news that Thomas T. Walsh had passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on October 23. Tom retired from the District in September of 1954. From February, 1939 until November, 1953 he was Field Superintendent of Pumping Plants, and Transmission Lines, with headquarters at Gene Village. About a year before his retirement he was transferred to engineering duties in the Los Angeles office.

Tom entered the service of the District in January, 1933 as an assistant engineer and later became Superintendent of construction at Intake and Gene Pumping plants. He is survived by his widow, Eleanor, his son, Thomas T. Walsh. Jr., and two daughters, Mrs. Wallace Simmons and Mrs. Louis R. Hughes.

* * *

District employees are being reminded by Community Chest Campaign Chairman that they can "Feel Good" if they "Give Big" to the Community Chest drive now under way.

Lars Christiansen, Superintendent of Aqueduct Maintenance, and his wife, Helen, this year have added three grandchildren to their family for a grand total of nine.

Their daughter, Avalon, gave birth to a baby boy on January 25; daughter Beverly had a girl on September 19, and still another daughter, Carol, presented them with the ninth, a girl, on October 3.

* * *

Harlen Kerr, Utility Man at the Softening Plant, retired from the District on September 30 after 13 years of service. Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer, presented him with a testimonial scroll in recognition of his loyal and efficient service.

* * *

A "pot luck" dinner was held in the Recreation Hall at Gene Village on October 17 honoring Calvin and Mrs. Twiggs, who are soon to move to Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant where Cal will take on the duties of Assistant Station Chief. Oliver J. Thompson will be the Station Chief at Eagle.

Following the dinner the evening was spent in dancing, card playing and snooker.

* * *

Tom Clarey, Utility Man, and Mrs. Clarey have recently returned from a vacation in the east where they held a reunion with Mrs. Clarey's daughter, Mrs. L. W. Abramson.

While in the east Tom had the pleasure of attending four of the World Series games. Tom reports there was only one drawback. He was pulling for the Yanks.

Marian Shafer, the former Marian Fletcher, is shown with an electric mixer, one of the several gifts presented to her by District employees on the occasion of her recent marriage to Robert Shafer. She also received some nice lawn furniture. Marion and Bob visited Southern Oregon on their honeymoon.